

Post 8/1/71
Sentences Stir Texas

By Preston McGraw
United Press International

DALLAS—Some think they're plain ridiculous, others think they violate the U.S. Constitution by inflicting cruel and inhuman punishment, but Dallas District Attorney Henry Wade says they work—by reducing crime.

The controversy concerns prison terms ranging from hundreds to thousands of years being meted out by juries to persons convicted of murder, rape, armed robbery, and drug peddling.

It began a year ago when Wade and his assistants started asking juries to return 1,000-year prison sentences for such criminals. They did, and later juries have gotten even tougher.

This April 8, two of Wade's

assistants asked a jury to give murderer Robert Floyd Angle 2,000 years to "keep him off the streets." The jury in fact raised the two prosecutors 500 and handed Angle, 28, a 2,500-year sentence for murdering Jack Katz, 64, while robbing his liquor store, and wounding Mrs. Katz.

Angle's 2,500-year sentence is the longest in Texas legal history and may be the longest in U.S. history. He has now joined an exclusive group in Dallas County Jail waiting for appeals to be heard.

The group includes Antonio Rodriguez, 1,500 years for heroin peddling; Joseph Franklin Sills, 1,000 years for robbery by assault; Harry Eugene Hill, 1,000 years for rape,